

OCT 3 1956

Council Chambers, 7:30 P.M.
Wednesday, October 3, 1956

Council reconvened. Present 5; Bratrud, Goering, Humiston, Perdue, Anderson. Absent 3; Battin, Tollefson, Stojack and Jensen (taking his seat at 8:05 P.M.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

This being the date to which hearing on the Preliminary Budget was continued, the matter was taken up at this time. Mayor Anderson announced that the Health Department and Library Budgets would be up for discussion at tonight's meeting.

Mayor Anderson called for consideration of the Health Department's budget first. Mr. Rowlands reported that the Washington State Nurses Association has made certain requests for the nurses employed by the City, which it was felt by the staff, the City could not grant. The Association has requested that the range go to \$440 instead of the present \$400, Mr. Rowlands advised. The City nurses at present are in a range \$20.00 above the County nurses, and the County Commissioners have indicated they are willing to raise their schedule to \$400.00 to the City rate without any additional increases being granted, he stated. The Association has also asked that the Public Health nurses be put under the City Health and Welfare Plan, but this is not possible because they are not City Employees Mr. Rowlands stated. In the new "5" step plan the bottom step is cut off in most classifications and one more step is added, and an employe can reach the top step in two and one half years instead of four and one half years, Mr. Rowlands said. However the nurses along with 15 other positions, were not recommended for a range increase because they are furnished City cars, are receiving higher pay than County nurses and their salaries are comparable or above those listed in the Public pay data survey for similar positions, he added.

Mrs. Geraldine Fletcher of the Washington State Nurses Association spoke in favor of increasing the nurses' pay range, stating that the City is losing staff to other states, particularly California and to the Tacoma Public School District, because of the lower wages being paid by the City, She pointed out that two of the best qualified and most valuable members will not receive a raise this year and suggested the range be increased to \$420 to take care of these employes as the cost to the City would be approximately \$600 for the year. Mrs. Fletcher distributed to the Council a statement in support of the request of the Washington Nurses Ass'n. for the members to study prior to the adoption of the budget.

Dr. Humiston said the exact amount of money involved is not a major factor as far as he is concerned, but that he is interested in the right answer as compared to the pay received for similar work on the outside. The matter was further discussed. Mayor Anderson thanked Mrs. Fletcher for appearing and stated the Council will take the request under advisement.

The Library budget was considered next.

Mr. George Roberts of the Library Board spoke in favor of the budget submitted by the Board. He advised the Council that for the past three years they have turned a sizable sum back each year and said that they are not going to spend all the money appropriated unless it is absolutely needed.

Mr. Perdue asked whether the Bookmobile, which he had observed recently, was operated outside or inside the City. Director Ibbotson replied that the Bookmobile was put in operation in January 1, 1956 and is being operated entirely within the City limits in districts too sparsely settled for a branch library.

OCT 3 1956

In reply to a question from one of the Council members about the contract with Pierce County, Mr. Roberts stated that they are going to cancel this on December 31st and negotiate a new contract which will more nearly meet the costs involved.

Mr. Rowlands reported that with the proposed increment the Building Maintenance Superintendent's salary will exceed the City's pay schedule by \$10.00 and that other comparable positions will receive the same wages as City employees. Mr. Ibbotson stated that the largest increase is for Librarian I, which is 9% and it goes down to 5% for Librarian III. Mr. Bixel, Director of Personnel stated his department has surveyed the Clerical and maintenance positions in the Library and these are slightly below the City's top pay. Mr. Ibbotson said the Librarians salaries have been surveyed and they are about medium in the scale. Mayor Anderson thanked the Library representatives and Director for appearing and promised that the Council will take their budget under advisement and do the best they can for the Library.

Speaking on the Nurse's pay schedule, Dr. Humiston said he would be in favor of eliminating the bottom step, but that the time to do this in his estimation would be when the Council passes the new compensation ordinance. He pointed out that it is impossible to have fast promotions in the pay scale and to keep raising the top range. The suggestion to eliminate the bottom step was discussed and the Council members were in favor of this change. Mr. Rowlands said this could be taken care of in the preparation of the final budget.

Mr. Bratrud said he had before him a paper, comparable to the Utilities' publication "Reflections", which is published by the Sportsman's Club for 10¢ a copy including mailing. They publish 1300 each month at a cost of \$130.00 a month or \$1560 a year, as against \$12,680 a year for 150 copies monthly of "Reflections". He felt this matter should be investigated as well as other items in the Utilities budget before he would be willing to vote in favor of adopting their budget. Mr. Dugovich, under whose supervision "Reflections" is published, said he would like to explain things concerning this publication to Council. It was decided that Mr. Dugovich should give his information to Mr. Bratrud, who in turn would make the report to the Council.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Budget hearing be continued to Thursday, October 4th, 1956 at 7:30 P. M.

At 8:30 P. M. upon motion, duly seconded and carried Council recessed to Thursday, October 4th, 7:30 P. M.

Attest:

Josephine Melton
City Clerk

John H. Anderson
President of City Council